



Congressman Pedro R. Pierluisi
Hispanic Association for Corporate Responsibility
Corporate Inclusion Index Survey
Press Conference
December 16, 2009

I want to join my colleagues on the Corporate America Task Force in commending the Hispanic Association for Corporate Responsibility for their longstanding efforts to advocate for the inclusion of Hispanics in corporate America. Hispanics are the largest minority group in the United States—as well as the fastest growing. Our community should aspire to be represented in every field and at a level roughly commensurate with our community's proportion of the nation's population as a whole. I am proud that this Task Force has worked with organizations such as HACR to make this goal a reality.

The purpose of the Corporate Inclusion Index Survey that HACR is releasing today is to measure how well—or how poorly—our nation’s most prominent companies are doing when it comes to reaching out to Hispanics. Among the factors the survey examines are the number of Hispanics that these companies are hiring to serve in upper management positions and on their corporate boards. I am disappointed but not surprised that the results of the survey indicate that Hispanics still have a ways to go to be fully included in all aspects of corporate America. As Hispanics continue to grow as a segment of our nation’s population, we must emphasize to these companies that including Hispanics in their business model is not only the right approach but the smart approach. At the same time, when talking to the Hispanic community, especially our youth, we must consistently underscore the importance of education and hard work, so that companies have a broad and deep pool of qualified Hispanic applicants from which to choose.

Again, I congratulate HACR on the production of this Survey. As we move into a new year, we must renew our commitment to expand Hispanic participation in corporate America.